

STEPTOE & JOHNSON ^{LLP}

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January 11, 2007

Via HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 11 2007

Part of
Public Record



Re: **Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases, STB Ex Parte No. 646 (Sub-No. 1);
Notice of Intent to Participate**

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Association of American Railroads ("AAR") hereby notifies the Board that it intends to participate in the January 31, 2007 public hearing in the above-captioned matter. Samuel M. Sipe, Jr., will appear on behalf of AAR and requests 10 minutes to address the Board.

Sincerely,

Samuel M. Sipe, Jr.
Counsel for the Association of
American Railroads

cc: Parties of Record